

La
BILLINGE
Urban District Council.

**Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health
for 1918.**

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my report on the health and sanitary condition of the Urban District of Billinge for the year 1918.

At the request of the Local Government Board the Registrar General has furnished Medical Officers of Health with particulars of the vital statistics of their respective areas.

From those particulars one observes that two distinct populations have been used in estimating the several rates furnished, viz., a "death-rate population" and a "birth-rate population."

THE MORTALITY RATE.—The deaths for 1918 number 77 (males 34, females 43), The recorded rate per 1,000 of the population per annum is 17.6; in 1917, 13.6; and the mean for the corresponding years 1908-1917, 14.3.

Annual death-rate per 1,000 civilian population for 1918 is 17.6 for England and Wales.

BIRTHS.—During the year 1918 there were registered as belonging to the district 121 births, 53 males and 68 females, against 53 males and 59 females as a corresponding total registered for 1917. Of the 121 births, 1 was illegitimate. The birth-rate for the district of Billinge is 24.7; for 1917, 19.7; and the mean for the corresponding years, 1908-1917, 26.9. The birth-rate for England and Wales per 1,000 total population was 17.7 for 1918.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.—The number of deaths of children under one year is 11, or 90 per 1,000 births. This figure compares favourably with the mean of 10 years, 1908-1917, when 116 was recorded, and with that of England and Wales for 1918, when 97 was recorded.

An analysis of these 11 deaths shows that they may be grouped under the following headings:—

(1) Premature Birth and Congenital Debility	...	5
(2) Bronchitis	... ..	2
(3) Enteritis	... ..	2
(4) Whooping Cough	... ..	1
(5) Hydrocephalus	... ..	1

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.—During the year there were notified 22 cases of infectious disease, as against 143 for the previous year.

The following table shows the distribution of these diseases:—

	Billinge C.E.	Billinge H.E.	Winstanley.
Measles	5	5	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	3	4	—
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	—	2	—
Scarlet Fever	—	2	—
Erysipelas	—	1	—

The principal Epidemic Diseases, namely, Smallpox, Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup), Whooping Cough, Fever (comprising Enteric, Typhus, and Continued Fever), and Diarrhœa with Enteritis, gave rise to 3 deaths, representing 3.9 per cent. of the total deaths from all causes. The epidemic death-rate equals 0.68 per 1,000 of population, as compared with 0.89 for last year, and 1.44 for the mean of 10 years 1908-1917.

The death-rate in 1917 for these epidemic diseases, calculated per 1,000 of the estimated civilian population, corresponded to 0.78 for Urban Districts. Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Broncho-Pneumonia were credited with 13 deaths, corresponding to 16.88 per cent. of the total deaths from all causes. The Respiratory death-rates per 1,000 of the population for 1918 and 1917 are 2.97 and 3.14 respectively, and the mean for corresponding years 1908-1917 2.60.

PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.—This disease was the cause of six deaths, the rate produced being 1.37 per 1,000.

INFLUENZA.—The deaths ascribed to Influenza as a primary cause numbered 13 (5 males and 8 females).

The subjoined table gives the age distribution of the deaths from this disease:—

Age period :	0-5	5-15	15-25	25-45	45-65	All Ages
	2	5	1	0	5	13

With one exception the whole of the deaths occurred during the 4th quarter of the year, October contributing 4, November 7, and December 1. With regard to the death not included in this period, this occurred in January, and was part of an outbreak which ran a shorter course, and was remarkably free from complications. To combat this disease, leaflets were distributed throughout the district, giving rules both with regard to treatment and prevention of the malady. As a prophylactic measure, antiseptic lozenges were doled out at the Schools, Sanitary Offices, and infected homes.

ERYSIPELAS.—Only one case notified, and this occurred in a person who has suffered repeated attacks.

SCARLET FEVER.—Two cases of Scarlet Fever were notified in Billinge Higher End, with no death. These cases occurred at different periods of the year, and showed no association with each other.

MEASLES & GERMAN MEASLES have been compulsorily notifiable since the 1st January, 1916. Ten cases of these diseases have been notified during the year, as against 133 for 1917. Of the 10 cases 9 were undoubtedly associated with each other, as they occurred in the same area, developed symptoms within a few days of each other, and lastly the whole of the infected households were on visiting terms.

CANCER, MALIGNANT DISEASES.—Cancer levied a heavy toll, viz., 6 fatalities, or a rate of 1.37 per 1,000 of the population.

DRAINS, SEWERS, & SEWAGE DISPOSAL.—The sewer at Rainford Road has been again blocked owing to insufficient fall in the gradient. This nuisance will probably necessitate diversion of the sewage from a limited area, with treatment on adjoining land. The Sewage Scheme for abolishing the cesspools at Gauntley Road has been completed, and the sewage now discharges into the Upholland Area. The Sewage Effluents are giving satisfactory results to the Ribble Joint Committee.

CLEANSING & SCAVENGING.—The conservancy type of closet accommodation is in vogue in the district. These closets are periodically emptied by the Council's workmen, and any special case receives immediate attention. Thirty-six notices have been served during the year to abate nuisances, of which 27 have been remedied.

DISINFECTION.—This has been carried out as in the past, by means of chemical agents, no disinfecting apparatus being used.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.—There is only one licensed slaughter-house in the district, and this is in a fairly satisfactory condition.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS, & MILKSHOPS.—The Cowsheds and Dairies, which supply the bulk of the population with milk, are in a fairly satisfactory condition.

I am pleased to report that the supply of milk during the year has met requirements, although the problem of ensuring a supply without unduly raising the price has been beset with difficulties.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.—These were closed for Epidemic Influenza from October 28th to November 11th, inclusive. The insanitary conditions at St. Mary's, Birchley, are still in abeyance owing to economic conditions.

FACTORIES & WORKSHOPS ACT (1901).—Visits have been made from time to time under this Act, and the sanitary conditions were found satisfactory.

The classification is as follows:—

Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	4
Domestic Workshops	...	...	...	...	3
Cloggers and Boot Repairers...	...	...	...	...	3
Joiners	...	...	...	...	2
Shoeing Smith	...	...	...	...	1

MATERNITY & CHILD WELFARE.—The supreme importance of Maternity and Child Welfare Work at the present time, needs no emphasis. This work, during the year, has been carried out by Midwives, under the supervision of a County Health Visitor. As the inhabitants of the district are fairly prosperous, few cases arise in which financial assistance is asked for. In order to safeguard the health and life of the infant, I have asked the Health Visitor and Midwives to notify me of any case deserving special attention and care.

WATER SUPPLY.—For several years the Council's supply during periods of dry weather has been insufficient. To meet this difficulty, an agreement has been entered into whereby Upholland has undertaken to supplement the existing supply.

HOUSING & TOWN PLANNING.—During the year little has been performed in regard to housing beyond what was absolutely necessary. Owing to the high cost of building, due to our restriction of output, private enterprise has shown no desire to assist in providing adequate homes for the working classes. If our people are to be housed, it is obvious that this work in the future will have to be performed by Local Authorities having substantial assistance from public funds. I am pleased to report that my Authority have now decided to erect twenty houses in Billinge Chapel End, and that the scheme for their erection is now *sub-judice*.

Death-rate	...	...	...	...	17.6
Birth-rate	...	...	...	...	24.7
Zymotic Death-rate	...	...	...	...	0.68

I am,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

RICHARD OSWALD MATHER,

Medical Officer of Health

April 30th, 1919.

Sanitary Inspector's Report for the year ending December, 1919.

To the Urban District Council of Billinge.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting a report of the sanitary work carried out during the year 1918.

The Medical Officer and myself have made several inspections of property during the year, and reported the same to the Council.

The ashpits have been attended to regularly, and the drains kept in proper order. In cases of infectious disease precautionary measures have been taken, disinfectants freely used, and after instruction from Medical Attendant, houses fumigated.

BAKEHOUSES.—There are four bakehouses in the district, and they have been inspected and found to be kept in proper order.

FRIED FISH SHOPS.—These have been inspected, and found to be very clean.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.—One licensed.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.—None in the district.

COWSHEDS & DAIRIES.—These have been inspected, and limewashing in most cases been attended to.

Statutory Notices Served	...	...	...	21
Informal Notices Served	...	...	...	15
Defective Sanitary Conveniences	...	...	...	6
Defective Drains	...	...	...	2
Defective or Insufficient Ventilation	...	...	...	2
Defective Roofs	...	...	...	3
Defective Spouting	...	...	...	4
Defective Chimney Stacks	...	...	...	2
Defective Yards	...	...	...	2
Nuisances Remedied	...	...	...	27
Fumigations	...	...	...	7

Nuisances of a minor character have been dealt with without notice; owners after an interview being willing to carry out the necessary requirements.

Cowkeepers Registered	...	...	...	...	35
No. of Inspections during the year	...	...	...	...	30
Privy Middens	{ No. of Ashpits				406
	{ No. of Privies				602
No. of Pail Closets	...	...	...	...	10
No. of Ashpits, excluding Middens	...	...	...	...	63
No. of Fresh Water Closets	...	...	...	...	53

NEW PROPERTY.—Chapel End, none; Higher End, none; Winstanley, none.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

RICHARD POWELL,

Sanitary Inspector.

